

(c) what action has been taken to ease the water crisis in the city; and

(d) whether the Delhi Administration are considering the possibility of bringing Chambal Waters to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) As against the assessed requirement of water supply of 472 mgd., the existing water supply in Delhi is 409 mgd. There is thus no acute water crisis in Delhi at present. Government is, however, aware that there is a likelihood of scarcity of water in the city during the coming summer months. While, owing to the prevailing drought conditions, it may not be possible to fully overcome the scarcity, government is maintaining a continuous liaison with the State Govts. of UP and Haryana with a view to taking such steps as may be practicable for maintaining the supply of water to the city as close to the present level as possible.

(d) No, Sir.

Assistance to Punjab for Integrated Cooperative Development

***76. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and form of the assistance provided to Punjab during the last year under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Integrated Cooperative Development; and

(b) the number of primary agricultural Credit Societies benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No proposal has been received from Punjab Government for assistance under the scheme. Hence, no funds were provided to Punjab during the last year.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum for extension of immigration period of the people of Minicoy Island.

***77. DR. BAPU KALDATE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Minicoy Island (Lakshdweep) had recently submitted a memorandum for extension of immigration period;

(b) whether Government have considered the above mentioned request of the people of the Island, and.

(c) if so, what are details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The difficulty being faced by seamen in Minicoy Island (Lakshdweep) in obtaining emigration clearance from Protector of Emigrants (POE) Cochin in taking up employment in shipping lines was brought to the notice of Government in December 1985. The Deputy Collector, Minicoy was authorised to exercise the powers of Protector of Emigrants under Section 29 of the Emigration Act, 1983 with effect from 6 February 1986. Another difficulty pertained to their passports not having any mention of their profession as 'Seamen'. This was also resolved by instructing the Deputy Collector, Minicoy Island to grant emigration clearance on the basis of proof to his satisfaction that passport holders were 'Seamen'.

In December 1987 the residents have expressed that the period of suspension should not be one year but co-terminus with the voyage on merchant shipping vessels. It has since been decided to grant suspension of emigration clearance being co-terminus with periods of their employment on voyages.

Decline in the Mining of Gold

***78. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the production of

gold in the gold mines under Bharat Gold Mines Ltd (BGML);

(b) if so whether Government have assessed the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these mines have been used-up; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to close the used-up mines and give more technical and financial assistance to those mines whose total potentiality has been completely utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) The Mysore Champion Reef and Nundydroog mines of the Bharat Gold Mines in the Kolar Gold Field have been working continuously for more than a century and are now being operated at depths upto 3.3 kms. The three mines, with the remaining estimated ore reserve of 6.9 million tonnes, have mineable reserves of 3.45 million tonnes which are likely to yield 14.92 tonnes of gold over a period of 12 years at the present rate of extraction. These mines had an average production of 10 to 17 tonnes of gold per annum in the first four decades of this century. Over the years this has gradually declined to a level below one tonne since 1985-86. The production of gold at KGF Mines has been progressively declining due to:—

- (i) Fall in grade of ore;
- (ii) Depletion of ore reserves;
- (iii) Ultra-depths in mining; and
- (iv) Rock bursts and ground control problems.

As mining is being undertaken at depth upto 3.3 Kms, problems of ground control, temperature, dust, rock bursts and long travel time of workmen are encountered. Costs of operations have been increasing while productivity has been coming down due to virtual exhaustion of high grade ore. Since the Bharat Gold

Mines Limited, which is operating these mines, has been incurring losses, the Government has decided to phase out the three mines in KGF over a period of next seven years. The Government has also decided to speed up the exploration/exploitation activities of promising shallow gold mines at Yeppamana and Chigargunta in Andhra Pradesh apart from taking up exploration of gold deposits in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Company is also implementing a programme of diversification in areas of Mine Construction and Workshop manufactured items with a view to making the operations of the Company viable.

Improvement in the quality of T.V. Serials

*79. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been drawn up by Doordarshan to improve the quality of the serials meant for telecast, and make them socially more purposeful; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) In order to improve the standard of serials and to have them handled by creative people in the field of art and films, a new scheme has been introduced by the Government last year. According to this scheme, producers and directors will be registered with Doordarshan for production of TV serials/series. Accordingly, advertisements were given in leading dailies in various regions inviting applications, the last date of receipt of which was 30-10-1987. A Selection Board consisting of eminent persons from the fields of film and communication has been constituted by the Government for scrutinising the applications and